

FREAK HAPPENINGS OF A YEAR

The Marvelous, the Laughable, the Weird, and the Pathetic--Tales Extraordinary Culled from Press Reports from All Over the Civilized World--Some Almost Unbelievable Tales Among the Mass of Material Gathered.

January, 1906, came in with proof that Kentucky deacons are made of much the same stuff as Kentucky colonels. Two of them had an argument as to John D. Rockefeller's fitness for heaven, deciding the matter with shot-guns. The churchman who upheld Mr. Rockefeller got two charges of buckshot in the breast.

June brought news from Des Moines that some highwaymen had returned to James Morgan, their victim of the night before, three teeth they had "unintentionally" knocked out. They thoughtfully suggested a plate-setting. So the months of 1906 have run.

In Germany, too, the year opened oddly. One Schmidt had carved upon his deceased wife's tombstone some fright words to the effect that she had died of unscrupulous treatment, whereupon libel suits followed.



For the "23" Party.

and the widower went to jail for 14 days.

In Manila, the meanest man in the islands stole his mother-in-law's tombstone and pawned it.

An actual sale of burial memorials was held in September, in Breslau. A "ring" of undertakers had been formed to bear prices, but a speculative outsider insisted on playing ball, and the local troops had to be called in to quiet the resultant hard feeling.

Just Love.

One lover has cabled his proposal to New York from Buenos Ayres, and another, over in London, took advantage of his dentist's trade to send in his heart-deep proposition neatly engraved on the plate of a set of false teeth. Both won out.

At Lynchburg, Md., were married a couple who had found a new use for old love letters. The high contracting parties knelt upon white satin pillows stuffed to crackling with their amatory epistles.

Letters of another sort have figured in the news of the twelvemonth. Ellaba Hawes, of Stoughton, Mass., has received, in his ninety-third year, one written to him during the civil war by his boy, then at the front; while another missive, mailed in Boston in 1888, never reached its object in Granville, N. Y., till last September.

Up in Biddeford, Me., an honest farmer had a dream reminding him that he owed a neighbor a dollar. Both had forgotten it, but, having figured that the loan was of 26 years' standing, it was formally closed up.

Law's Lighter Side.

A London magistrate discharged a man and his wife charged with conspiracy, on the ground that they were legally one person, and one person could not conspire.

A Chicago physician was found guilty of robbery, inasmuch as he had diagnosed a certain case in a way afterward proved wrong. The jury regarded his fee as distinctly obtained under false pretenses, and he had to give back \$100.

Another glimpse of legal methods has come across from Germany, where the mayor of a town was caught picking the pockets of a prisoner, and was "sent up" for a month.

Wilmington produced the champion 13 story. Francis E. Davis, with 13 letters in his name, was arrested by Patrolman Francis G. Green (ditto) at 10:13 on January 13, the call going in from box 13. At 9:13 next day he was arraigned before Edwin R. Cochran (13 letters again), and his fine and costs totaled exactly \$13.

Miss Margaret Schida, of Cleveland, on August 23, sent invitations to 23 friends to attend her twenty-third birthday party. September 23, at 23 East Twenty-third street, an orchestra of 23 pieces discoursed exactly 23 sweet dances from behind 23 palms.

The other hoodoo digits came up twice in April, once when a Baltimore negro was arrested for stealing 13 chickens; again at St. Louis, where a baseball "fan" fell dead of heart disease during the thirteenth inning of the St. Louis-Pittsburg game.

The Old Folks.

The annual bridegrooms of an age past expecting just that of them were

Isaac Lloyd, of Liverpool, who, at 90, was wed to a widow of 60 in March; while, a month earlier, Deacon French, of Nashua, N. H., at 88 married a spinster of 76.

The "70s" have even more to tell. In January, Andrew Lansair, of Toledo, began cutting another set of teeth; in February a Le Seul (Minn.) matron painted her entire house; in October, Frank Hookwater, returning to his boyhood home in Attica, Ind., after 65 years' absence, had the door-sleep lifted that he might find a dime he had lost down the crack as a boy of five. He found it. And each of these was just three score years and ten.

The note of pathos, which so often sounds with age, came from Middle-town, N. Y., in April. Matthew Smedes, aged 79, could no longer resist the call of the fields. He took to the plow again—and was found dead in the first furrow he had cut—died in harness, as he had wished to die!

Australia may claim something near the record! At some amateur theatricals near Victoria, in January, two people in the stalls, whenever the heroine was kissed, kissed each other loudly. The man of this couple was husband to the stage heroine, and this was his way of reproving behavior across the footlights to which he was distinctly opposed.

Babes and Divorces.

The divorce mill seems to have recorded a new "Farthest North." A Seattle judge separated an even dozen couples in 75 minutes in February, one formerly fond husband receiving the boon for which he prayed because his wife has become a Shakerite, and another because his better half had circulated a report that he was an anarchist.

Mrs. Lorenz, on the other hand, received a divorce in Cincinnati on the plausible ground that it was difficult to live peacefully with a man who in-



Joined in the Kissing.

sisted on appearing in the parlor with neither shoes nor stockings.

Des Moines produced, in May, a baby who changed color three times a day. When little Eli Ramt awakes it is a proper pink. By noon he is a dark ginger in hue and before bedtime is startlingly pale. But then, he is the son of a Hindoo father and an Illinois mother.

In August the "hello lady" on the line between Meredith and Wolfboro, N. H., heard the voice of a two-hour-old subscriber. The news of his arrival in the world came first, and then his infantile indorsement traveled across Lake Winnipisaukee.

Hard Liquor.

Chicago and Kansas City give two of the best of the year's hard-liquor yarns. In one case three saloon keepers were fined \$7,500, to be paid the orphans of a man who had died of drink; and in the other a certain Seib Jones was sentenced to get drunk and stay so. Poor Jones was later arrested in Chicago for stealing in order to raise the wherewith to carry out the Kansas City sentence.

London is responsible for this: The arm-chair of a confirmed tippler, used at a "psychometric lecture," made tipsy every one who sat in it. The signs of drinking continued upon four subjects till the chair was burned, when they all once sobered up.

Weird Wills.

When the late Michael Davitt bequeathed to all his friends "kind thoughts, to my enemies the fullest possible forgiveness, and to Ireland my undying prayer for her absolute freedom, he did not leave the strangers will of the twelvemonth's probate.

Mrs. Christina Hoch, of Brooklyn, willed the ashes of her body, when cremated, as fertilizer for a rose bush on her son's grave; Mrs. Isabel Kremer, at Westminster, Eng., left her corks to the parish poor warden; and a lady of Florence, Italy, bequeathed \$2,500 to the staff of a local newspaper

"in gratitude for having been so often entertained by their writings."

Alphonse Strauss, one of London's millionaire merchants, dying last May, disposed of an estate of \$1,481,105 in just 43 words, nearly \$35,000 a word; while January brought sudden wealth to a poor French girl who attended the sale of a great-uncle's effects to buy in some trifling memento of her. The only bidder for a shabby old book of devotions, she found between its leaves a will bestowing upon her the entire property, valued at \$80,000.

Life's Little Ironies.

In Milwaukee (February) one Harry Martens, playing ghost to frighten some negroes, fell down stairs in the dark—and became a ghost! A fellow named Durene, living near Quebec, in the belief that the rope by which a suicide has hung himself will bring a later owner luck, stole such a rope, only to fall to his death the next minute through the rotten flooring of the belfry.

Was it not ironical, too, that a mere fragment of the handwriting of the English poet Chatterton should have sold (October) for \$155, and that in the unfortunate versifier's native town of Bristol, where he had died of starvation in his seventeenth year!

In Foreign Parts.

Europe has had many an odd tale to tell during the year. Antrim has produced a man beside whom Pook-Bah was a laborer of very single aim. For this busy Irishman is land steward, pier overseer, port pay clerk, name-keeper, mining superintendent, bog-bailiff, auctioneer, real estate agent, supervisor of shipping, and the manager of a private business besides.

Colored rain, in the shape of millions of tiny red, green and yellow insects, fell at Angers, France, in March; while in Nantes a young fellow, Gautier by name, has murdered his step-father that his military service might be a year shorter through his being "the only son of a widow."

At one of London's West End clubs a match game of billiards was played by two men, one clad in full armor, save for his hands, which were encased in the heaviest woolen gauntlets, and the other dressed as usual, but wearing boxing gloves. Wool mittens won after a hard fight.

Coincidence and Paradox.

Two other all-but-unbelievable trans-Atlantic tales tell of a New Zealand horse race, which was won by a one-eyed mare, ridden by a one-eyed jockey, the two weighing-room clerks also having but two eyes between them; and of a Parisian June wedding when the twin brothers Charton married the twin sisters Volsee, twin cousins (male and female) acting as best man and maid of honor.

In New York, during a February masked ball, there was a panic and many casualties, all because the cotton snow man of the grand march had suddenly caught fire.

Pulpit and Platform.

Buttons sewn on a silk ground formed a scrollwork sold at a recent



Bare Feet in the Parlor.

church fair in Montreal, Canada. It was the work of the clergyman's wife who thus converted into useful cash the buttons contributed to her husband's offertory baskets.

The Hon. Hoke Smith, speaking at Atlanta in September, was enthusiastically hugged by Policeman T. J. Williams. The latter was then hailed before his commissioners for "taking an interest in politics."

The Philadelphia Westminster reports that a New York firm offers to set out any church with small mirrors, set in the pewbacks to enable feminine worshippers to see if their hats are on straight during prayer time.

The Kansas cotton crop having shown a surplus, agricultural papers of the state urged that shirts be made an inch longer—by law. That, they say, would increase the demand for cotton just enough "to make things come out even."

Missouri Legislature

HOUSE.

All trust companies and financial institutions, exclusive of building and loan associations and national banks, are to be placed under the supervision of State Bank Commissioner if a bill introduced by Representative Humphrey, of Plate County, in the House Thursday morning, passes.

The measure, requires that the banks be taken from the supervision of the Secretary of State and placed in the hands of a Bank Commissioner, who is to be an appointee of the Governor at a salary of \$2,500 a year. He and his deputy must have had at least three years' experience in the banking business.

Representative Humphrey stated that the bill was drawn up at the request of the Missouri Bankers' Association. There will be eight examiners who will visit every bank and trust company in the State once a year.

Another provision requires that three of the directors of each bank shall make a personal inspection of the condition of the account at least twice a year and forward the report to the Bank Commissioner, the same to be regarded as a strictly confidential communication.

Representative Austin Briggs, of St. Louis, offered an amendment to the election laws to increase the salaries of the judges and clerks of election for the City of St. Louis from \$4 to \$5 a day and to allow them \$2.50 a day for every day they are called upon to visit the Election Commissioner's office.

Speaker Atkinson, of the house of representatives, on Wednesday announced the standing committees of that branch of the general assembly. Not a chairmanship was given to the St. Louis members, but it was at their own request.

Every candidate for speaker of the house of representatives gets a chairmanship of some committee, and the other democratic members of the house are taken care of by appointments on important committees.

Representative Simmons, who was the most formidable opponent to Speaker Atkinson in the race for the honor of presiding over the house at this session, is named at the head of the committee on ways and means. Wallace Crossley, of Johnson county, heads the committee on education and public schools; Representative Houston, of Cass county, will preside over the committee on private corporations, and Representative H. E. Stapel, of Atchison county, heads the committee on the Jamestown exposition.

Speaker Atkinson, in making his selections, stated that he hoped they would prove satisfactory to all of the members, as he had made his selections without fear, favor or affection. No republican is placed at the head of any committee, but they are given representation in each.

There was a big slump in the number of bills introduced Wednesday, only twenty-eight proposed measures being sent in by the members. Some covered propositions already incorporated in other bills, while the majority were local in nature.

The second reading of bills was carried out Wednesday for the first time this session, and the first thirty which were returned from the printer were read and referred to the respective committees.

SENATE.

Senator Dorris, of Oregon, introduced a bill in the Senate Thursday making it unlawful for any business corporation, either in its own name or the name of any person, to own, hold, control or vote the stock of any other corporation.

The bill provides that if a majority of the stockholders shall permit the shares of stock owned by another corporation in the corporation of which they are stockholders to be voted, or if majority shall permit its business and affairs to be controlled by another corporation, then the Attorney General may bring proceedings to forfeit its charter.

Another section provides that any person who knowingly attempts to vote or votes any shares of stock which are directly owned, held or controlled by another business corporation, with intent or effect of securing to the corporation owning, holding or controlling such shares the management, control or direction of the business of the other corporation, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and punished by fine of not exceeding \$1,000 or imprisonment in jail not exceeding one year.

It is not very often that Senator Bradley, of St. Francois, makes a record as a humorist in the Senate. Usually, he is so busy with bills affecting the mining interests, reminding the railroads of their sins and providing

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

Representative Dale of Andrew county has heard so many persons talk of the barrel of apples his predecessor, the late Representative Moser, sent to the general assembly, that he has confided to Railroad Clerk Reed of the state auditor's department, his intention to do likewise.

Representatives Barker of Macon and Traugher of Carroll and Senator Hudson of Livingston were all born in Carroll county, where all of them resided until after they had reached their majority.

heavier penalties for merchants who sell whiskey under the guise of "wet groceries," that he has little time to pose as a humorist.

He found time Thursday however, and improved it by introducing a resolution, reciting that the Senate is about to pass into the hands of lobbyists who are stalking about the legislative halls seeking to corrupt members of the General Assembly, and concluding with, "Resolved, That the President of the Senate appoint six stalwart sergeant-at-arms to seize each member of the Senate at the hour of adjournment, take him by the heels and shake him until all the corruption funds in his possession have been scattered over the floor."

State Treasurer Gmelich is going to stand on his record of two years ago and refuse to cash warrants for members and employees of the Legislature until after the appropriation bills have passed and been approved by the Governor.

He is clearly within the law in so doing, but all of his predecessors honored requests from the Legislature and cashed these warrants, and then held them against the appropriations, thus saving an endless amount of annoyance, to say nothing of the small losses everyone must have sustained in having his warrants shaved.

Arrangements have been made with the Mercantile Trust Company of St. Louis, under which it will cash these warrants, in Jefferson City the 2d and 16th of each month, at the nominal cost of one-half of 1 per cent.

Senator Farris presented a bill in the Senate Thursday to regulate the sale of proprietary medicines. It is similar to a measure that has been in the Legislature before and which is now being urged by petitions from various parts of the State, indicating an organized effort to secure its enactment. It requires all patent medicines to bear upon the label of each bottle the percentage of morphine and other narcotics or spirituous liquors that each bottle or package contains.

The bill recommended by the Federation of Labor to abolish the contract system of working convicts in the Penitentiary was introduced in the Senate Thursday by Senator Bradley, who stated that he offered it by request. There will no doubt be a warm contest over this measure, as the labor organizations all over the State are urging its enactment. They base their opposition to the contract system on the ground that the products of convict labor come in competition with outside labor.

Senator McAllister introduced a bill in the Senate amending the law relating to the qualifications of Probate Judge, so as to compel the latter to be a man learned in law. In other words, the bill requires a Probate Judge to be a lawyer.

Senator Gilmore, of Kansas City, wants to put an end to dilatory proceedings in civil suits. He introduced a bill in the Senate providing a fine of \$10 for every motion in a civil action which is of a dilatory character and made solely for the purpose of delay. He also proposes to change the methods of reversals in civil actions on appeals.

The standing committees announced in the senate Wednesday morning by President Pro Tem, McDavid are regarded as about the best that body has had in many years. Seemingly, everybody is satisfied.

As the democratic leader in the senate, he was empowered by the democratic caucus to arrange these committees, a privilege that would have been accorded the lieutenant governor had he been a democrat.

Senator Fields, of Linn, heads the judiciary committee, regarded as the most important of all. Associated with him are the strongest men in the senate. This committee will have charge of trust legislation, as well as many other important matters.

Senator Ely, of Dunklin, is chairman of the criminal jurisprudence committee, which is composed of strong men. This committee will have charge of the criminal laws and also draftsmen legislation.

The St. Louis members fared well in the make-up of the committee. Senator Kinney, who is the only democratic senator from St. Louis with legislative experience, is chairman of one committee and a member of five other important committees. He is chairman of the committee on penitentiary and a member of the ways and means, election, insurance, labor and engraving bills committees.

Senator Metheny, of St. Louis, introduced a bill in the senate Wednesday under which, should it become a law, there will no longer be any such thing as the legal recognition of common law marriages.

Senator McAllister introduced a bill in the senate Wednesday extending the parole law so as to permit all persons with a previous good character, who are convicted of their first crime, to be paroled by the trial judge, pending their good behavior. Under the present law, the parole system only extends to persons under 25 years of age who are convicted for the first time.

Senator Dorris introduced a bill which he said was not an administration measure, but was along the line of the series of anti-trust bills, and sought to attain an end in the same direction. It provides that it shall be unlawful for any business corporation to own, hold, control or vote the stock of another corporation.

Official Reporter Daniels is a school teacher. From his desk in the house he can see three of his former pupils occupying seats as members of the legislature. These are Representatives Oliver of Pemiscot, Settle of Wayne and Sweez of Reynolds.

State Happenings.

Fire in a State Institution.

Marshall.—Fire started in the laundry of the Missouri colony for the feeble minded at this place. The fire was caused by the explosion of a gas oil tank situated in the laundry which caused the fire to break out in a great number of places at the same time. One girl inmate of the institution was standing close to the tank at the time of the explosion and was burned severely, but the doctors believe that she will recover. The entire building, including laundry, kitchen, cold storage, grocery room, bake shop, employees' dining room and general dining room of the inmates was burned to the ground. The loss is estimated at \$60,000.

Got Thousand With a Brick.

St. Joseph.—A robber, equipped only with a brick for the foray, smashed a large plate-glass window of the C. & T. Burnett jewelry store at 8 o'clock at night, seized a tray of diamond rings and escaped. Clerks and pedestrians were attracted by the crashing of glass and saw a tall young man without mask wield a brick, and when an opening was effected, quickly push his hand into the window, and picking up \$1,000 worth of diamonds, scampered off. Clerks in the store gave chase, but he escaped.

Savage Assault on Young Woman.

St. Louis.—Miss Alice R. Gray was savagely assaulted near home, after dark, in Tuxedo Park, a suburb. A man stepped up behind her and struck her on the head with a base ball bat. The man then ran away. Miss Gray was severely injured. No cause is known for the deed. A youth of 16 was arrested on suspicion. A year ago a twin brother assaulted a young woman in a similar manner, and is now in the Boonville reformatory.

Fogg Released On Bond.

Springfield.—At Cassville, at the conclusion of the preliminary examination of Walter Fogg, charged with the killing of Lee Heffley, a wealthy Barry county farmer, and the wounding of his son, Clyde Heffley, and a bystander named Lon Talman, the night of December 28 at Milwaukee, a short distance from Cassville, the prisoner was released on \$2,000 bond.

A Sharp Letter.

Springfield.—Corporation Counsel Lewis, of Chicago, has addressed a very sharp letter to the state board of equalization. The letter accuses the board of failing to notify either him or the attorney-general of the state when representatives of the corporations, for whose higher assessment he had made a plea before the board, were to make their arguments.

Woman Badly Burned.

Chillicothe.—Mrs. Sarah Krause, an aged woman, living in the west part of Livingston county, sustained burns that it is thought will prove fatal. Mrs. Krause lived alone. Neighbors passing her home saw her in the yard enveloped in flames. They hastily went to her rescue, but not until she had been dangerously burned about the head and body.

Died From Laudanum.

Kansas City.—Allen Moore, president of the Chillicothe normal school and business college, died in a police ambulance while being taken from a hotel to the emergency hospital in the city hall. An overdose of laudanum was the cause. It was said at the hotel that Prof. Moore had taken the drug for stomach trouble.

For Annapolis and West Point.

Washington.—Congressman Champ Clark has appointed two examining boards to meet at Mexico, Mo., on Saturday, February 2, to select youths who will receive his appointment as cadets at the military academy at West Point and the naval academy at Annapolis.

Ordered to Cut Out Dangerous Wires.

Sedalia.—Two deaths from "live" wires in Sedalia within two weeks caused the city council at a special meeting to order Electrician George Pope to cut out and ground, without notice, any dangerous or imperfectly insulated wire found in the city limits.

Two Years for Two Convicts.

Jefferson City.—Harry Grimm and Sam Thompson, two negro convicts, who came here from St. Louis, and who walked away from the power house at the penitentiary a few days ago, in the circuit court were given five years each for jailbreaking.

A Legislator's Wife Dead.

St. Louis.—The wife of Representative Charles E. Willard was buried here. She was 71, and married Mr. Willard 49 years ago at Cleveland, O.

Will Not Oppose Williams.

Washington.—Champ Clark, of Missouri, it is stated, will not oppose John Sharp Williams for democratic leadership in house.

Died at the Breakfast Table.

St. Louis.—With a sigh, John W. Spargo, a well-known educator, fell from his chair at the breakfast table, dead.

Charged With a Killing.

Washington.—Charles Shmon and Walter Fink indicted on the charge of killing Walter Robinson and Otto Buddenmeyer in this city.